



Management Plan Overview

Management Planning at Parks Canada

Management plans are completed for all Parks Canada places every 10 years to provide management direction by outlining a vision, and developing key strategies and objectives. The planning process provides an opportunity to:

- Assess the current state of a national park or national heritage site;
- Scope the management direction, priorities, and objectives of the planning process;
- Incorporate meaningful and relevant involvement of Indigenous communities, key stakeholders, and the Canadian public in shaping management direction; and
- Prepare a Management Plan that will guide future decision-making.

Point Pelee National Park

Point Pelee National Park was established in 1918. The park protects nationally and internationally significant natural resources and processes representative of the Carolinian ecozone of the St. Lawrence Lowlands natural region. A 10-kilometre-long sandspit and marsh complex extending into Lake Erie, the park consists of approximately 420 ha of dry land and 1070 ha of freshwater marsh. The southern Great Lakes freshwater marsh is recognized as a Wetland of International Significance by the RAMSAR Convention of UNESCO. In 2000, the 18.5 ha Middle Island was added to the park. The island is designated as a Carolinian Canada Signature Site and provincially designated as an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest. Caldwell First Nation and Walpole Island First Nation have traditional ties to the lands now known as Point Pelee National Park and are important partners in land management. The park receives 340,000 visitors annually.

Indigenous Partners and Stakeholder Consultation – Vision and Priorities

During the scoping phase, Parks Canada management planning team members will invite Indigenous partners and key stakeholders to discuss a proposed vision and areas of priority for Point Pelee National Park Management Planning. These discussions will inform the development of a Draft Management Plan.

Key stakeholders interested in participating in the scoping phase can provide input in the following ways:

- a) A written response on the proposed vision elements and areas of priority (outlined in the following pages), or
- b) A meeting with management planning team members to discuss a vision and areas of priority.

Following these responses and meetings, feedback and discussion points will be incorporated into the draft management plan document. Upon the completion of a draft plan, an extensive consultation process will begin with Indigenous partners, key stakeholders, and the Canadian public to seek meaningful and relevant involvement in the development of a final management plan.

Management Planning Schedule

- Indigenous Partner Consultations and Key Stakeholder Discussions - Spring 2019
- Draft Plan Development - Summer/Fall 2019
- Consultation on Draft Plan - Winter/Spring 2020
- Final Plan Submission - Fall 2020





We invite you to review the following proposed vision elements and key areas of priority and we welcome your involvement in shaping the draft management plan for Point Pelee National Park.

Creating a Shared Vision

The new park management plan will contain a vision for the future of the park, inspiring the foundation of the management plan. Point Pelee National Park staff have drafted some early elements of this vision, which include:

- a resilient, healthy mosaic of habitats that are part of a regional network of protected areas in southwestern Ontario;
- pride in the concerted efforts to achieve a recovered marsh ecosystem supporting species at risk and acting as a highlight of visitor experience;
- collaboration with Indigenous communities in park management, including economic development initiatives, and integrating Indigenous languages, knowledge, and priorities into park operations;
- a park renowned as the southern-most tip of mainland Canada offering opportunities for incredible natural experiences, including migration of birds and butterflies;
- offering visitors exceptional outdoor recreation experiences that are diverse and accessible;
- leading a shared approach to the stewardship of natural and cultural resources with stakeholders and partners dedicated to regional protected areas, long term sustainability of Point Pelee National Park, and improved understanding of climate change impacts ; and
- national recognition through successful multi-platform promotions and outreach programming that brings Point Pelee National Park's unique natural and cultural heritage to Canadians.

We welcome your feedback in shaping this vision.





Priority Issues and Opportunities

In a recent State of the Park assessment, indicators for ecological integrity, cultural resources, external relations, Indigenous relations, visitor experiences and built assets were reviewed, analyzed and assessed. This assessment helped identify several priority areas as considerations for the management planning process:

Active Management for Ecological Integrity and Species at Risk: Currently, Point Pelee has 62 designated species at risk that can be found regularly within the park. Point Pelee's small size and its distance from other natural habitats means that the park's Carolinian habitats have less resiliency to natural and human-induced stress than larger or more connected parks. Continual management of hyperabundant and invasive species is key to restoring and maintaining ecosystem health. Partnerships and relationships with Indigenous communities, the scientific community, and other protected area managers will help support efforts in managing ecological integrity and protecting species at risk.

Marsh Health: The Point Pelee marsh has not been connected to its original watershed for over 200 years, which has led to significantly altered hydrology. Aggressive alien species, such as hybrid cattails and *Phragmites*, have spread, leading to a decrease in open water and threatening the diversity of the marsh ecosystem. Working in partnership with Caldwell and Walpole Island First Nations, the park aims to work towards improving water quality, restoring natural hydrological processes, and maintaining biodiversity.

Visitation Trends: Recent investments in infrastructure (such as the Tip Tower, Northwest Beach parking area, inclusive washrooms, pavilion and oTENTik village) is helping Point Pelee to revitalize visitor experience opportunities. The park will continue to explore new ways to reach audiences

and address information needs for visitors planning a trip to this area.

Landscape Scale Stressors: Habitat fragmentation and coastal processes continue to impact the ecology of the park. Erosion has led to a loss of over 12 hectares of shoreline between 2010 and 2017, which puts ecosystems, species at risk, cultural resources (archaeological sites), and visitor experiences at risk. Landscape stressors, such as climate change, are impacting the entire coastal area of Lake Erie, and the park needs to identify how it can adapt and participate in landscape-wide solutions. Collaboration with local and regional municipalities, provincial and federal stakeholders, and Indigenous communities will be important in advancing shared goals for conservation within the Lake Erie basin.

Indigenous Relations: The current relationship between park staff and Indigenous communities is strong and respectful. Within the spirit of reconciliation, efforts continue to focus on improved communication and the incorporation of Indigenous knowledge and languages into park management, as well as collaboration in park operations and conservation work. Supporting economic opportunities for Indigenous people is a priority for capacity building.

Asset Sustainability: With the exception of recent infrastructure investments, most of the buildings in the park are in need of improvement. Identifying sustainable approaches to maintaining park infrastructure is a priority.

For comments or inquiries regarding the management plan, please contact us:

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